Providing good pay perks for doctors

†586. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government doctors available with Centre and State Governments for treatment in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of adequate salary and proper facilities, most of the doctors are leaving Government institutes and joining private institutes and big private hospitals; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) As per information available, there are a total 4745 posts sanctioned in the Central Health Service, out of which 3491 posts were filled up as on 1.1.2007. In respect of State Governments, as per the National Health Policy profile 2006 brought out by the Central Health Intelligence, there are 73549 allopathic doctors. Additionally, under NRHM there are 3673 doctors and 3163 specialists are working on contractual basis as on 1.6.2007.

(b) and (c) The Central Government had noted the increasing trend of Government doctors especially the Specialist seeking Voluntary Retirement or Resigning due to the attractive financial compensation and other generous service benefits in foreign assignments/domestic private sector. The Government had constituted and Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Javid Choudhury, Former Secretary (Health) to suggest measures/ disincentives that should be introduced to arrest the outflow of doctors and changes in the terms and condition of service. The Committee has made a number of recommendations to improve the lot of these doctors. Amongst the steps taken by Government (i) the age of retirement of specialists in three sub-cadres of Teaching, Non-teaching and Public Health has already been increased from 60 to 62 years (ii) the period of study leave has also been increased from two years to three years in respect of CHS doctors.

Food Safety Act 2006

587. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has reportedly pulled up Centre for not notifying the Food Safety Act, 2006, and failing to implement it despite the Presidential assent given a year ago;

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken, so far, to check adulteration of food and beverages involving health of young children who are being misled by advertisement of soft drinks; and

(c) by when, Government propose to notify and order for disclosing composition and contents of the products and additives on the bottle, package or container, as required?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The setting up of Food Safety and Standards Authority and implementation of the Act involves significant inter-ministerial coordination. A steering group under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, including the Secretaries of all relevant Ministries

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.